UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF STATE

USAID
FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE

OMAN

U.S. FOREIGN ASSISTANCE PERFORMANCE PUBLICATION
Fiscal Year 2009

FY 2009 FOREIGN ASSISTANCE GOALS

Oman remains a friend of the United States and a stable nation in a region critical to U.S. national security interests. U.S. foreign assistance aids Oman in protecting shipping lanes in the vital Strait of Hormuz, and maintaining a military able to defend its sovereignty. Assistance also supports Oman's efforts to secure its long coastline and land borders, and protect it from the entry or transit of weapons of mass destruction (WMD) and their components. As the situations in southern Central Asia, Somalia, and Yemen unfold, the need of continued support for a strong and stable Oman increases in importance.

HIGHLIGHTS BY PROGRAM OBJECTIVE

Peace and Security

Military assistance in support of counterterrorism goals in Oman directly supports both nations' interests in maintaining stability and security in the Gulf region and beyond to South Asia and the Horn of Africa. This assistance is primarily aimed at enhancing Oman's ability to deter and combat the potential flow of illegal immigrants, contraband, and criminal or terrorist activity across its expansive borders.

With a vast 2,000-kilometer coastline that includes the southern shore of the critical Strait of Hormuz, Oman faces a major challenge in deterring the possible entry or transit of criminal or terrorist elements from the sea. Oman's acquisition of Mark V patrol boats using Foreign Military Financing has increased its ability to conduct maritime intercept operations, while helping to keep vital shipping lanes open. Oman faces potentially extensive smuggling of humans and illicit materials through southern Central Asia – mostly illegal labor from the Asian Subcontinent.

Oman maintains a credible military able to defend its sovereignty, operate with U.S. forces, and protect shipping lanes in the vital Strait of Hormuz and elsewhere. In recent years, there has been an ever-increasing cycle of threats in the region. Piracy, and its resulting threat to commerce on the

Programs discussed in this publication are funded through the Department of State. The U.S. Agency for International Development does not currently provide direct assistance to Oman.

high seas, has spread from the coastal waters of Somalia up the coast of the Arabian Sea, off the coast of Oman, and to the mouth of the Gulf of Oman.

During FY 2009, the Export Control and Related Border Security Program (EXBS) sponsored practical training sessions for Omani officials on preventing WMD and their components from entering or transiting Oman. These programs include targeting and risk management, commodity identification, border interdiction, and best practices. The EXBS program sponsored an Omani delegation's participation in the United Nations Security Council Resolution 1540 conference on export controls in Doha, Qatar, in support of obligations for member states to develop and enforce measures to prevent the spread of WMD to non-state actors. EXBS also sponsored the participation of Omani officials in the Regional Proliferation Security Initiative conference in Budapest, Hungary. EXBS funding provided training and expert assistance to bolster Oman's export control legal and regulatory framework through a model law workshop on export control and non-proliferation law.

The United States supports military education and training covering a broad range of areas, including senior professional military education (National War College and other senior service schools); technical, maintenance, and logistics issues; English language instruction; and maritime operations. U.S.-funded training reinforced principles of civilian control of the military, enhanced strong ties and relationships between United States and Omani military forces, and highlighted the importance of a strong, cooperative relationship with the United States. Oman sends top officers to this training, many of whom have come to occupy high positions in Oman's armed forces today.